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Qaddafi lends aid as Muslims gear for national battle

ENTIRE SERIES NOT TAKEN
Second of four articles

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It was June when Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, returned to the United States after a month-long tour of Libya, Syria, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

He told 250 of his Black Muslim followers, who cheered him at a rally at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, that the pilgrimage had been "very successful" and that he had "established warm relations in the Arab and Muslim world."

The relations evidently were more than fraternal. Mr. Farrakhan also announced he had received \$5 million, a "loan" from Libyan strongman Col. Muammar Qaddafi.

That was the first public pronouncement of what appears to be an economic alliance between the blacks-only Nation of Islam and the Libyan leader, an avowed enemy of the United States. It's an alliance that many believe is part of Mr. Farrakhan's desire to create a separate nation for blacks within the borders of America.

According to information gathered by The Washington Times during a month-long investigation, Mr. Farrakhan may be operating under some strict time

restraints, imposed by his own Nation of Islam teachings, to get the job done. For more than 50 years, Black Muslims have believed that 1986 is the year for "slavery in America" to end.

"We must go to war to see who's going to rule on this earth," Mr. Farrakhan told a cheering crowd of 20,000 blacks last month at Madison Square Garden in New York City. "The time of war is here. We are not going to get liberation by praying for it. It's time we get up and do something about it."

His words have been even stronger when privately delivered to the faithful.

"Some of the white people are going to live; maybe a few, quite a few," he said in a March 1984 speech taped for a Chicago radio show but then later delivered

only to Black Muslims. "But [God] doesn't want them living with us. He doesn't want us mixing ourselves with the slavemaster's children, whose time of doom has arrived."

Mr. Farrakhan, 52, often couches his words in symbolic or spiritual terms. But law enforcement authorities across the country and others, including members of the Muslim organization Mr. Farrakhan quit nearly 10 years ago to form his own militant anti-white sect, say they are beginning to take his statements literally. [Warith Deen Muhammad took over the original Nation of Islam in 1975 after the death of his father, Elijah. He changed the name of the religion and adopted strict Islamic teachings, which opened the sect to whites and eliminated the racist and separatist teachings that had been the foundation of the organization.]

"You can't keep telling me you're going to punch me in the mouth and not expect me to believe it after awhile," said one Chicago Police Department detective. "Particularly if you keep waving your fist in my face."

"There are those who believe the words of Louis Farrakhan without question," said a former Washington, D.C., Black Muslim official. "He has said hateful words before and people have died."

Calling whites "devils" and demanding reparation for "430 years of slavery," Mr. Farrakhan seeks a separate nation for blacks within the

territory of the United States. He has boasted to followers that he has created "the most awesome war machine that the earth has ever seen" to win it.

Few, other than Mr. Farrakhan, know what the words really mean—and he's not saying. Over a three-week period The Times placed 16 phone calls to his Chicago headquarters requesting an interview. There was no response. And neither Mr. Farrakhan, his spokesman nor his attorney responded to questions submitted in writing.

Law enforcement authorities are not sure what the words mean either. This may be partly due to the absence of any substantive investigation by federal or state authorities. Local police in several states have collected some information, but they have neither the manpower nor the money to conduct formal inquiries.

In April 1984, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago opened an investigation into allegations that Mr. Farrakhan had broken the law by making threatening remarks against a black Washington Post reporter. Less than a month later, then-U.S. Attorney Dan Webb closed the case, saying there were insufficient grounds to prosecute Mr. Farrakhan.

No new investigation into the Nation of Islam or Mr. Farrakhan has been undertaken since, a Justice Department official said.

"It's viewed as a religious organization, a black religious organization at that, and we're just not going to get into it," the official said. "And neither is anyone else until and unless something happens."

Mr. Qaddafi has emerged as a leading player in Mr. Farrakhan's apparent bid for a separate nation. He has become one of the Nation of Islam's most reliable money sources and has offered to supply the organization with additional support, including weapons, if it ever decides to wage war and "destroy white America."

In a February speech during the Nation of Islam's annual International Savior's Day celebration in Chicago, hosted by Mr. Farrakhan, the Libyan leader again denounced the United States and called upon America's 400,000 black soldiers to desert and form their own army.

"This country must be destroyed," Mr. Qaddafi said during the speech, which was broadcast by satellite. "They refuse to accept you as American citizens. This means you are obligated to create a separate and independent state."